

IND vs NZ: “Obvious Favouritism” Fans Unhappy As Arshdeep Singh Benched In 1st ODI, Prasidh, Harshit Picked



The **India vs New Zealand 1st ODI** not only delivered exciting cricket action but also sparked a major debate among fans. Social media was flooded with reactions after **Arshdeep Singh** was left out of the playing XI, while **Prasidh Krishna** and **Harshit Rana** were selected. Many supporters called it “**obvious favouritism**,” questioning the team management’s selection policy.

Arshdeep Singh Benched: A Shocking Call

Arshdeep Singh has been one of India’s most consistent fast bowlers in white-ball cricket. Known for his accuracy, swing, and deadly yorkers, especially in the death overs, his exclusion from the **IND vs NZ 1st ODI** came as a surprise.

Fans expected Arshdeep to lead the pace attack, considering his recent performances and ability to trouble top-order batters. However, the team management opted for Prasidh Krishna and Harshit Rana instead, leaving Arshdeep on the bench.

Fans Cry “Favouritism” on Social Media

As soon as the playing XI was announced, Twitter (X), Instagram, and other platforms were flooded with reactions. Many fans accused the selectors of showing “**favouritism**” and questioned the logic behind dropping an in-form bowler.

Popular fan reactions included:

- “Arshdeep deserves a place in every ODI XI.”
- “How can you bench your most reliable pacer?”
- “This looks like obvious favouritism.”

The debate quickly became one of the top trending topics during the match.

Check Out: [IND vs NZ Series Highlights, Match Prediction](#)

Why Prasidh Krishna and Harshit Rana Were Picked

Despite the criticism, there were reasons behind the selection. **Prasidh Krishna** brings extra bounce and pace, which can be effective on certain pitches. **Harshit Rana**, on the other hand, has impressed in domestic cricket and was seen as a promising young option.

The team management appeared to focus on:

- Testing bench strength
- Giving young players international exposure
- Building depth ahead of major tournaments

However, many fans still felt that Arshdeep’s experience should have been prioritized.

Performance Analysis: Did the Decision Pay Off?

While Prasidh and Harshit delivered decent spells, the debate continued because Arshdeep's absence was felt, especially in the death overs. His ability to control runs and pick up crucial wickets has often helped India in tight situations.

The mixed performances only added fuel to the ongoing discussion about selection consistency and transparency.

What This Means for Arshdeep Singh

Being benched in the **IND vs NZ 1st ODI** does not necessarily mean Arshdeep is out of the team's long-term plans. With a busy international calendar ahead, rotation is expected. However, the fan reaction clearly shows how highly he is valued.

Selectors may reconsider their approach in upcoming matches, especially if India need more control in the bowling attack.

Final Thoughts

The **IND vs NZ 1st ODI** selection controversy highlights the passion of Indian cricket fans and their strong connection with players like Arshdeep Singh. While experimenting with young talent is important, consistency and performance-based selection remain crucial for maintaining trust.